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12/19/23 • BIG CHEMICAL › VIEWS

Rise in Uterine Cancer Linked to Pesticide Exposure

A study in Environmental Health found that work-related exposure to pesticides increases the risk of endometrial cancer, the most common cancer of the female reproductive system and the fourth most common cancer among women.

By **Beyond Pesticides**

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A study published in Environmental Health finds occupational (work-related) exposure to pesticides increases the risk of endometrial (uterine) cancer development.

Endometrial cancer is the most common cancer of the female reproductive system and the fourth most common cancer among women, primarily affecting the uterine lining rather than the uterus itself, like uterine sarcoma.

Despite data predicting the disease rate to increase, few studies evaluate the connection environmental contaminants have on endometrial cancer occurrence.

Like most cancers, non-genetic factors account for a majority of endometrial cancer risk, including diabetes, age, contraceptive (birth control) use and hormone (endocrine) disruption.

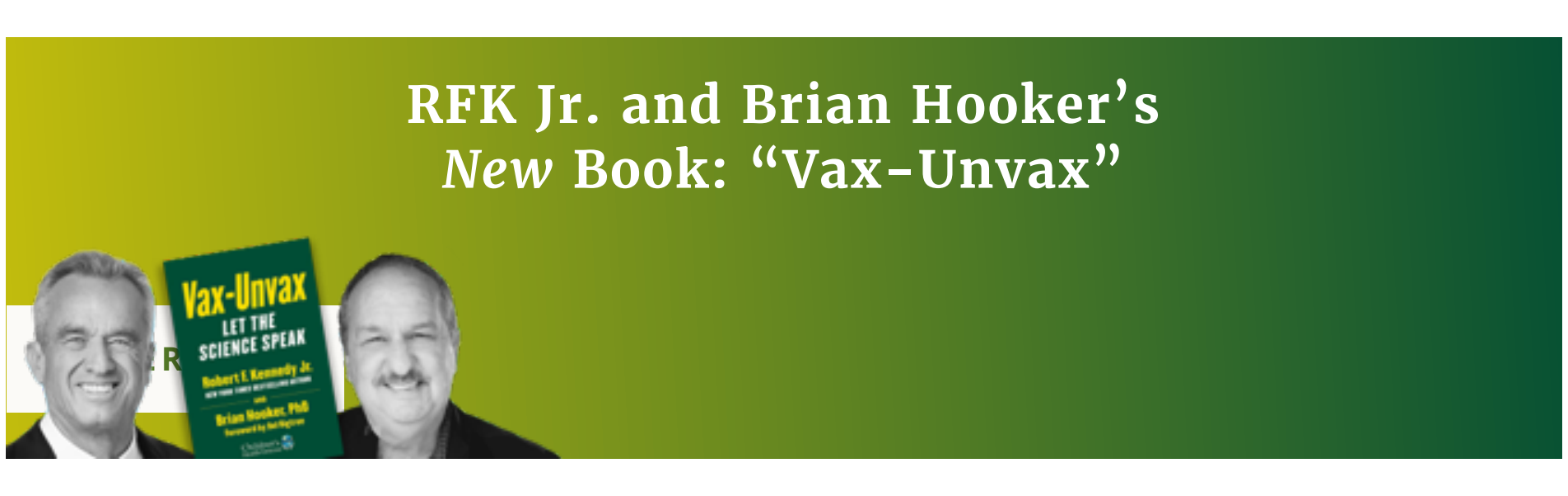
However, 3% of all cases are hereditary, primarily from Lynch syndrome. The study notes, "Identifying other modifiable risk factors may help develop strategies to reduce the expected increasing incidence of these neoplasms."

Many pesticides have a long history associated with endocrine-disrupting properties that induce various molecular changes, prompting disease development. The International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies many of these chemicals as potent carcinogens in animal studies.

Cancer development also depends on genetic susceptibility, as impaired genes responsible for xenobiotic detoxification (elimination) increase disease risk sensitivity.

Adding to the science, a review published in Environmental Exposure, Biomonitoring, and Exposure Assessment highlights how specific estrogen-mimicking pesticides increase the risk of disease, particularly hormone-related cancers among women (e.g., breast, ovarian, endometrial cancer) and men (e.g., testicular, prostate cancer).

Endocrine disruptors, including many pesticides, are xenobiotic (i.e., chemical substances foreign to an organism or ecosystem).


RFK Jr. and Brian Hooker's
New Book: "Vax-Unvax"

Many reports demonstrate that exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals can adversely affect human, animal — and thus environmental — health by altering the natural bodily hormones responsible for conventional reproductive, physical and mental development.

Endocrine disruption can lead to several health problems, including hormone-related cancer development (e.g., thyroid, breast, ovarian, prostate, testicular, reproductive dysfunction and diabetes/obesity that can span generations.

Therefore, studies related to pesticides and endocrine disruption help scientists understand the underlying mechanisms that indirectly or directly cause cancer, among other health issues.

Using a questionnaire and job-exposure matrix in the screenwide case-control study, the study analyzed the association between occupational exposure to pesticides and endometrial cancer.

The data includes 174 consecutive incidents of endometrial cancer cases and 216 controls of the individuals occupationally exposed to pesticides, whether fungicides, herbicides or insecticides; there is a positive association with endometrial cancer.

Although past exposure shows a higher occurrence of endometrial cancer, this can be explained through the latency (delayed) development of cancer, as the illness is primarily chronic. As for occupation, agricultural jobs have a higher association with cancer prognosis than custodial jobs (e.g., disinfectants).

The connection between pesticides and associated cancer risks is not a new finding. Many pesticides are "known or probable" carcinogens (cancer-causing agents), and widespread uses only amplify chemical hazards, adversely affecting human health.

Several studies link pesticide use and residue to various cancers, from the more prevalent breast cancer to the rare kidney cancer, nephroblastoma (Wilms' tumor).

Sixty-six percent of all cancers have links to environmental factors, especially in occupations of high chemical use. At least 45 different cancers have associations with work-related chemical exposure.

Although the link between agricultural practices and pesticide-related illnesses is stark, over 63% of commonly used lawn pesticides and 70% of commonly used school pesticides have links to cancer.

Many cancer-causing substances are endocrine disruptors, directly affecting traditional endocrine glands and their hormones and receptors (e.g., estrogens, anti-androgens, thyroid hormones) while greatly influencing hormone cancer incidents among humans (e.g., unrein, breast, prostate and thyroid cancers).

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Moreover, several studies and reports, including U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data, identify hundreds of chemicals as influential factors associated with hormone-related cancer risk.

This study is one of the first to evaluate the association between work-related exposure to pesticides and endometrial cancer, accounting for confounding factors like age, comorbidities (presence of multiple health conditions) and medication.

Additionally, the study highlights potential mechanisms involved in disease development, including oxidative stress, disruption of enzymatic activity and epigenetic changes from pesticide exposure.

However, the specific molecular pathway needs further investigation. Similarly, external factors such as exposure rate, pesticide type and pesticide (including breakdown product) persistence in the organism can play a role in carcinogenicity (cancer development).

There is a lack of understanding of the etiology of pesticide-induced diseases, including predictable lag time between chemical exposure, health impacts and epidemiological data. Exposure to pesticides can increase the risk of developing chronic illnesses.

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death worldwide, with over eight million people succumbing to the disease every year. Notably, the International Agency for Research on Cancer predicts an increase in new cancer cases from 19.3 million to 30.2 million per year by 2040.

Therefore, studies related to pesticides and cancer will aid in understanding the underlying mechanisms that cause the disease. Consequently, it is essential to understand the health implications of pesticide use and exposure for humans, particularly when pesticides increase chronic disease risk.

Beyond Pesticides tracks the most recent news and studies on pesticides and related topics through the Daily News Blog and Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database (PIDD).

For more information on the adverse effects of pesticides on human health, see PIDD pages on cancer, endocrine disruption and other diseases.

Moreover, proper prevention practices, like buying, growing and supporting organics, can eliminate exposure to toxic pesticides.

Organic agriculture has many health and environmental benefits, as it curtails the need for chemical-intensive agricultural practices.

Regenerative organic agriculture nurtures soil health through organic carbon sequestration, preventing pests and generating a higher return than chemical-intensive agriculture.

For more information on why organic is the right choice, see the Beyond Pesticides webpage, Health Benefits of Organic Agriculture.

Originally published Beyond Pesticides.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Children's Health Defense.

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Beyond Pesticides
Beyond Pesticides is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C., which works with allies in protecting public health and the environment to lead the transition to a world free of toxic pesticides.

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BChristine
24 days ago edited
YES. Uterine cancer and so many other cancers completely related to overuse of pesticides and herbicides. These cancers were barely heard of 50+ years ago ... what changed? AGRICULTURE i.e BIG Food and Monsanto's glyphosate which came full-throttle in the picture in the early 1990's. The usage maps on this toxic herbicide is off the charts!
Our bodies are being attacked on every level, but our broken and toxic food system is the main culprit.
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Diane Caunt Moore
24 days ago
Well my time has come! I was diagnosed in 2003 with Uterine cancer. It was the month after my 30th yr anniversary with United Airlines as a flight attendant. I started to fly internationally in 1991 where our international flights were being sprayed every 60 days since when we were literally spraying over the heads of our passengers caused such a hoopla that United changed the policy & secretly started to spray our aircraft heavily. They were supposed to have opened all the doors & let it dry but out of LAX they were putting us on "wet" airplanes instead.. So I had a choice to make retire & lose a 1/4 of my pension so I could fight the cancer or continue knowing there was a good chance I could make it worse & die from it.. I also understood that the stress involved in getting involved at that time could jeopardize my already damaged immune system. I so wanted to be the Erin Brockovich of this travesty on the flight crews working jumbo jets but thought about that stress & decided to focus on my healing efforts. So I checked out my options & my heart told me to go the natural alternative road. Since I had kept really good records of my exposures & side effects the Union that year sent me a letter underlined in yellow the "the petrochemicals in the pesticide sprays had an estrogenic effect". So in other words I was sucking down loads of xeoestrogens which can overwhelm our homone systems. Well through detoxing, organic food and a complete lifestyle change I'm still here 20 yrs later still with my uterus. a few yrs later I heard about a class action suit but it seemed to go nowhere. Having to start a new career at 50 actually (LMT) it was the perfect meditative lifestyle I could have hoped for. So yes this article is finally acknowledgement of how dangerous these pesticides are for humanity. May I also throw into the mix that I tried to get into the class action against "J&J" baby powder since I used it liberally but I think since I didn't have tons of medical bills, surgeries etc they rejected my claim to be involved.. So Humans beware there is an agenda to weaken us but I'm more radicalized against the current poisoned food & medical system & take complete personal responsibility for my environment. AND No I did not take the poison shots!! We can win if we are aware of the agenda! Love to all that read this.
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> **Robertapate** → Diane Caunt Moore
> 23 days ago edited
> You are Spot On. I'm glad you found your way through this poisonous system and came out wiser and aware. I'm right there with you. I am well aware of the agenda.... Maniacal and deliberate. Stay strong. Love back to you.
> 4 0 Reply • Share ›

M Adair
19 days ago
Bladder cancer has a higher than average occurrence in the Salinas Valley and city of Salinas. What does Salinas have? The whole city is surrounded by agricultural fields and those fields got sprayed with all the different products over the years.
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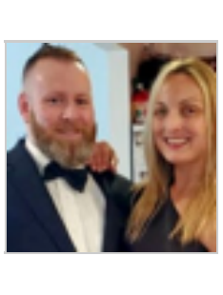

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